

From: Jerry Cupples
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 10:49pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I object to the proposed settlement being offered Microsoft Corporation after the finding they are guilty of monopolistic activities.

Microsoft is simply being given a slap on the hand, and told "bad, don't do that". This is absurd. They have crushed most competition, bought the others, and acted to co-opt any other new and possibly viable commercial enterprises in the software business. They have forced Encyclopedia Britannica to give away their intellectual property by offering a software based product at a price so low that it makes the printed book obsolete, yet charge \$500 for a copy of a spreadsheet and word processor which is simply a re-hash of the older version with a few more bells and whistles they produce for a few dollars.

They have such dominance of the market that they now garner 90% of all profits made publishing computer software.

Microsoft acts aggressively to bring new products to market positioned to dominate targeted competitors. For instance, a niche company like DeLorme, who offers mapping software. Microsoft essentially gives away a map program, literally free with coupons or rebates, until the competitor must reduce their price to the point of loss.

Microsoft has developed an effective way of actually paying hardware manufacturers to ship its products installed on machines, and they have prevented any competition from using similar means of distribution, punishing equipment manufacturers who do not fall in line.

Their legal armies have been given all the weapons and money to delay the battle, and to open fronts on every court in the land. At last, they lost. Microsoft is GUILTY.

Microsoft must be punished in a real fashion. They should be broken apart.

The pieces should be fined heavily and constrained in a true fashion, and if they are not, their management will simply pause and continue in the same line of operation. Steve Balmer and Bill Gates are completely arrogant in defending their corporate actions, and although this college dropout is now the richest man on the planet, he contends it is simply good business.

This was only good business in the same way that Standard Oil was good business, or that the railroads and coal industry were good businesses. Gates is the J.P. Morgan of his generation, only less benevolent, more overtly aggressive in breaking his competitors.

If the US courts fail to take action to dissolve this software beast, a historic lapse in the U.S. Government's duty to protect consumers and citizens will have been enacted and fortified with legal precedent.

Microsoft has about \$36 billion in cash to pay lawyers, lobbyists, and to bribe or influence any commercial interests who can legally accept the forms of bribery and coercion they have perfected.

I urge you to do something to protect the interests of the public in this matter.

Regards,

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